IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing software components to a plurality of testcomputer stations ~~that each analyze products~~, said method comprising:

accessing a test management system that is located remotely from the testcomputer stations, the test stations each analyze products, the test management system storing a plurality of software components;

obtaining at least one of the software components that includes information used by a computer station which communicates with a test station to analyze a product, wherein an instrument is used to test the product; ~~and~~

downloading at the computer station an equipment file set including said software component, said equipment file set directing the computer station to operate the instrument to analyze the product; and

distributing the software component, from the test management system, to the computer station automatically based on at least one of an identification of the test station and an identification of the product.

2. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said obtaining comprises downloading, to the computer station, an equipment file set including said software component, said equipment file set directing the computer station to operate an instrument, said equipment file set being uniquely associated with the computer station and independent of the product.

3. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 ~~wherein an instrument is used to test the product and said obtaining comprises downloading at the computer station an equipment file set including said software component, said equipment file set directing the computer station to analyze the product, said equipment file set being~~ further comprising downloading at the computer station an equipment file set that is uniquely associated with the

computer station and the instrument and said equipment file set being independent of the product.

4. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said obtaining comprises downloading at the computer station a test program set, said test program set directing the computer station to analyze the product, and said test program set being uniquely associated with the product and being associated with the computer station.

5. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein an instrument is used to test the product, said obtaining comprises downloading at the computer station a test program set, said test program set directing the computer station to analyze the product, and said test program set being uniquely associated with the product and being associated with the computer station and the instrument.

6. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising testing the product with an instrument based on the software component, wherein the instrument is at least one of a power supply, a communication analyzer, a signal generator, and a frequency counter.

7. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said obtaining comprises downloading at the computer station at least one of a communication file, a configuration file, a calibration file, a test executive file, a test sequence file, a specification file, and a test step execution file.

8. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein an instrument is used to test the product and further comprising storing in a database multiple equipment file sets, each equipment file set including at least one file identifying communications protocols between the computer station, the product and the instrument used to test the product.

9. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising storing in a database multiple equipment file sets, each equipment file set including at least one file identifying a calibration for an instrument to be used by the computer station to analyze the product.

10. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the information relates to analyzing at least one of a printed circuit board assembly, a combination of the printed circuit

board assemblies, a module, a circuit pack, a field replaceable unit (FRU), a processor, a memory, and a cable.

11. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising storing, in a database, multiple test program sets, each of which includes at least one test step execution file that identifies steps to be executed by an instrument configured to test the product, wherein said obtaining comprises accessing the test step execution file.

12. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said test management system comprises a management file service accessed by the computer station to download software component updates.

13. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising storing a relationship between the software components, products, instruments, and computer stations.

14. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising storing in a database information identifying multiple products, test stations used to test each product, instruments used to test the products, and fixtures used to hold the products.

15. (Previously Presented) A management system database configured to be used with a computer station that operates an instrument when analyzing a product, the database storing software components that are configured to be executed by the computer station to communicate with and operate the instrument in order to analyze the product, said database located remotely from said computer station and automatically accessing said software components based on identification of at least one of the computer station, the instrument and the product.

16. (Original) A database in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said software components are organized into at least one equipment file set defining a station specific test solution to be executed by the computer station to direct the instrument to perform a test solution, said equipment file set being uniquely associated with the computer station and the instrument, said equipment file set being independent of the product.

17. (Original) A database in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said software components are organized into at least one test program set that defines a product specific test solution to be executed by the computer station to direct the instrument to perform a test solution

on the product, said test program set being uniquely associated with the product, said test program set being associated with the instrument and the computer station.

18. (Original) A database in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said software components correspond to at least one of a communication file, a configuration file, a calibration file, a test executive file, a test sequence file, a specification file, and a test step execution file.

19. (Original) A database in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said software components are configured to control the computer station to analyze at least one of a printed circuit board assembly, a combination of printed circuit board assemblies, a module, a circuit pack, a field replaceable unit (FRU), a processor, a memory, and a cable.

20. (Original) A database in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said software components define an equipment file set that, when executed by the computer station, calibrates an instrument to execute a test sequence.

21. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a computer station configured to control operation of an instrument as the instrument analyzes a product, said computer station controlling the instrument based on an equipment file set;

a test station communicating with said computer station and said instrument; and

a management system database located remotely from said computer station and in communication with said computer station, said database storing said equipment file set, said database being accessible by said computer station, wherein said computer station controls said instrument during analysis of the product based on said equipment file set, and wherein said equipment file set includes a set of software components associated with said test station and independent of said product.

22. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said computer station controls said instrument during analysis of the product based on said equipment file set and a test program set, wherein said test program set is stored by said database and

includes a set of software components that are specific to the product and associated with at least one of said computer station and said instrument.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) A system in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said product is one of a printed circuit board assembly, a module, a circuit pack, a field replaceable unit (FRU), a processor, a memory, and a cable.

25. (Original) A system in accordance with Claim 21 wherein the equipment file set includes at least one of a communication file, a configuration file, a calibration file, a test executive file, a test sequence file, and a specification file.

26. (Original) A system in accordance with Claim 21 further comprising a developer file that enables a user to track relationships between said instrument and said computer station.

27. (Original) A system in accordance with Claim 21 further comprising a pre-release tool that is used to release information generated in a developer file.

28 -33 (Cancelled)